

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

**Minutes**  
November 4, 2005

The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on Friday, November 4, 2005 from 12:00 noon until 3:20 p.m.

1. Members present. Robert R. Aylsworth, John Jay Boyce, W. Timothy Crowley, Roger L. Duvall, Marilyn A. Moores, Daniel Lee Pflum, R. Paulette Stagg, and Mary Beth Bonaventura, Chair pro tem.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz and Anne Jordan provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting on October 7, 2005 were approved.
4. Guests present. Steven M. Badger, Attorney, Chair, Civil Rights of Children Committee, and JauNae M. Hanger, Immediate Past Chair, Civil Rights of Children Committee, ISBA, Laurie Elliott, Youth Law T.E.A.M. and Amy Karosos; Leslie Rogers Dunn, Director, Office of Guardian Ad Litem, Division of State Court Administration.
5. Presentation by Leslie Rogers Dunn, Director, Office of Guardian Ad Litem.
  - a. Leslie Rogers reviewed the experience of courts with the new requirement a GAL/CASA be appointed in every CHINS case. She reported the following about GAL/CASA's: (1) some courts have waiting lists for appointment; (2) some are asking to be removed from cases earlier, (3) some judges are not appointing them in every case; (4) some counties have received more county funding and are recruiting more; (5) some courts are appointing in every case; (6) some counties are using more paid staff, not volunteers; and (7) more multi-county agencies are being formed.
  - b. Leslie Rogers reported James Payne, Director, Department of Child Services stated Indiana will only get \$570,000 this year in total federal CAPTA monies. However, she reported Judge Payne said the judiciary would still receive \$500,000 as promised.
  - c. Indiana's accreditation standards would not be affected by the monetary amounts granted to a program.
  - d. Judge Aylsworth reported it is difficult to keep a volunteer for more than two years; Judge Bonaventura said they have hired a full-time person to recruit volunteers; she had spoken at a local service organization in order to recruit more volunteers; and her county has offered free CLE in return for getting attorneys to take two cases during the year.
6. Mental health screening instruments in CHINS/Social-Emotional Health Plan.
  - a. Jeffrey Bercovitz reported he attended a stakeholder meeting updating the participants on the use of mental health screening and assessment tools by the Department of Child Services when children are removed from the home in a CHINS case. He reported about one-half of the children are not being screened because information is not available for the use of the screening

instrument. Medicaid payment records are being used to determine how often the screening is occurring and it takes almost a year to make sure all screening costs are claimed.

b. He also reported the draft Children's Social-Emotional Health Plan may be found at the following website: <http://www.doe.state.in.us/exceptional/TaskForce.html>.

7. Background checks for out-of-home placements. Committee members reported probation officers are having no problems getting record checks on for relative placements in delinquency cases. The local Sheriff or law enforcement agencies are not charging a fee. One court reported using the procedures prepared by the Department of Child Services for these record checks.

8. Presentation by JauNae M. Hanger and Steven M. Badger.

a. Steve Badger and JauNae Hanger, Civil Rights of Children Committee, ISBA reviewed the Children, Mental Health and the Law Summit Report, Fall 2005 and its recommendations with committee members.

b. JauNae Hanger reported the Civil Rights of Children Committee is recommending a pilot project to test a screening and assessment tool for delinquents with mental health problems. She said it is modeled after a similar pilot project conducted in Pennsylvania. The pilot project used the MAYSE-2 instrument in ten (10) juvenile detention centers. The pilot received grant funds of \$300,000 in its first year.

c. JauNae Hanger asked the committee to answer the following:

- (1) Is this a good idea to move forward with the pilot project? Committee members agreed by consensus it is a good idea to move forward with the pilot project to review the screening and assessment instrument or instruments only.
- (2) Should the Civil Rights of Children Committee be able to come back to this committee with proposed legislation, if any, for the committee's views? Members of the committee agreed by consensus it was appropriate for the committee to give their views on any legislation related to the pilot project.
- (3) Does the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee wish to have a seat or two on the Advisory Board for the pilot project and the precursor advisory group for the project? Laurie Elliott reported the State Advisory Group would consider a grant idea for the pilot project in November, and if passed, the full grant request would be due to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute in February 2006. Committee members agreed two judges should be on the advisory board for the pilot project, along with a probation officer, detention center director, prosecutors and others with an interest in the project. Judge Moores and Magistrate Stagg volunteered to be representatives to the pilot project from the committee subject to review by Judge Pratt, Chair.

d. JauNae distributed newspaper articles about a proposed pilot program and other materials to committee members.

9. Other. Jeff Bercovitz distributed the following:

a. Updated contact information for Laurie Elliott, Youth Law Team

b. Newspaper articles about juvenile law issues from October 5, 2005 to November 4, 2005.

10. Next meeting dates. Committee members agreed to meet again on the following dates: January 6, 2006, February 3, 2006, March 3, 2006, May 5, 2006, June 2, October 6 and November 3, 2006, all from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law